(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In a landlord-tenant dispute, the wife of the tenant made a complaint on the 24th November, 1987 that her minor son who was admitted in the hospital on the 18th November, 1987, had been beaten by two persons. A case was registered and one of the accused was arrested the same day. On 26th November, 1987 the child expired in the hospital. Inquest proceedings were conducted and the doctor on performing autopsy, opined that injuries were ante-mortem in nature, caused by blunt force-impact. However, the injuries were not sufficient to cause death. Death was due to pneumonities as diagnosed clinically.

The investigation of the case has been transferred to the Crime Branch.

Collection of Payments for Industrial Units

2099. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India has recently constituted a Group to examine the feasibility of setting up of "factoring" organisations for collecting payments for supplies by ancillary units to public and private sectors;

(b) if so, what is the composition of the Group and what are the terms and conditions set by the RBI; and

(c) in what way the Group will help in removing the difficulties faced by industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has constituted a Study Group to examine aspects relating to 'factoring' and to give recommendations. The terms of reference of study group include the need and scope for introduction of factoring institutions (including for exporters in the country), their constitution, area of operations, organisational set up; and their economic and commercial feasibility. Representatives from Government of India, Reserve Bank of India, Commrecial Banks, Industrial Development Bank of India, Export credit Guarantee Corporation and National Institute of Bank Management are the Members of the Group.

Duty on PTA and DMT

2100. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2529 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 1987 and state whether PTA and DMT is allowed duty-free against the export of PSF and PFY which is the basic raw material?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Yes, Sir. Duty-free Import of PTA and DMT is allowed under the duty-exemption scheme for the exports of PSF and PFY.

Floating of Non-Resident Indian Bonds

2101. SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has proposed to float Non-resident Indian bonds and also a scheme for NRIs to invest in the housing sector;

(b) what is the total estimate of the funds which the Reserve Bank proposed to mobilise through these schemes under NRI; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indians living in foreign countries especially in Arab countries have proposed to invest their money in the Indian industries and what facilities have been provided by Government for bringing in those funds for the development of industrial sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government have decided to introduce a new scheme of Foreign Currency denominated Bonds/Deposit Certificates for Non-Resident Indians on a non-repatriable basis. The maturity period of these Bands/Deposit Certificates will be 7 years and these will carry an interest rate higher than that applicable to the repartriable foreign currency non-resident deposits. These Bonds/Deposits will be free from Income tax, Wealth tax and Gift tax. There is no decision to allow NRIs' investment in the housing sector.

(b) It is pre-mature to assess the likely amount of funds to be mobilised through this Scheme.

(c) Government have liberalised the investment facilities for NRI investments in 1982-83 and since then the Schemes are under constant review. These include investment in Indian industries in the form of equity, debentures or deposits, deposits in banks, units of UTI, National Savings Certificates, etc. both on repatriation and non-repatriation basis.

Export of Engineering Goods

2102. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a considerable increase in the export of engineering goods during the last nine months ending December, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the facilities provided by Government to the engineering industry to export more engneering goods to foreign countries; and

(c) what are the names of the countries to which the engineering goods were exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per figures available with the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) the export of engineering goods during April-December, 1987 were of the order of Rs. 830 cores as compared to Rs. 785 crores during the corresponding period of last year.

(b) The facilities provided to the exporters of engineering goods include liberalisation of licensing procedures and technology import, a new regime of Cash Compensatory Support (CCS) to compensate for the cascading effect of domestic taxation, access to raw materials and consumables at international competitive prices, reduction in the interest rates of pre and post shipment credit, interest rebate on new term loans to units which export more than 25 per cent of their production, assistance from export marketing fund for marketing activities abroad, introduction of new blanket exchange permit scheme to facilitate export promotion activities, grant of replenishment licences, duty drawback etc.

(c) The major countries to which engineering goods were exported include USSR, USA, UK, FRG, France, Australia; Japan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, ARE; Algeria, Jordan, UAE, Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mauritius etc.

Delhi as Transit Point for Trafficking in Women and Children

2103. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi has been pointed out as the major transit point for trafficking in women and children; and

(b) if so, what steps the Central Government propose to take to check the problem of trafficking in women and children?